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pernicious factor, and if syphilis is to be restricted, so must be the use of alcohol.

The frequent examination of the spinal fluid and blood is necessary, and the necessity of continuous and vigorous anti-syphilitic treatment is demanded in all cases of syphilis. But once the paresis has begun, it is the universal opinion that the use of mercury is decidedly dangerous. The use of atoxyl, tuberculin, bacterial toxins, nucleinic acid, lecithin and paretic serum are briefly described, but not in any way approved. The author states that the value of "606" is still unknown and the future only can determine the results of its use. The treatment in general is dietetic, hygienic and symptomatic; much stress is laid on careful nursing and the importance of hydrotherapy in the form of warm baths.

In conclusion of this brief review it may well be said that those interested in psychiatry will do well to study this valuable contribution to that subject.

Indiana State Prison.

PAUL E. BOWERS, M. D.

KRANKHEIT UND SOZIALE LAGE. Three volumes, by *Dr. M. Mosse* and *Dr. G. Tugendreich*. J. F. Lehmanns, Münschen, 1912. Pp. 495, 230 and 696, M. 6, 6 and 3.

The editors of this handbook on the correlation between disease and economic condition asked several prominent physicians, statisticians and government officials for the contributed articles, hence the reason for slight differences of opinion in the work. It presents what German scientists believe to be an exact presentation of the interrelationship between disease and economic condition. As it is a handbook for Germany, its arguments are from a national point of view, and only occasionally are European statistics quoted. While differences in racial, climatic and social conditions prevent generalization, all countries will sooner or later have to meet similar perplexing problems. In the United States these problems will be particularly difficult to solve, owing to the lack of reliable statistical material and to the widespread puritanical point of view, which so successfully interferes with an absolutely free discussion of questions pertaining to sex and vice. It will be a distinct advantage to Americans to learn how an industrialized country on the other side of the Atlantic is trying to meet and handle these issues; on this account the book will be reviewed at some length.

In opposition to the bacteriological school, which attaches little value to economic conditions as disease furthering and breeding causes, the editors of the handbook desire to bring out their great importance. While natural causes like bacteria, dust and poisonous fumes are responsible for the morbidity and mortality of the population without class distinction, economic conditions, like housing, wages, hours of labor and others affect particularly the health of the lower strata of society.

Adequate morbidity statistics, except for a few diseases, for which Germany has compulsory notification, do not exist. Even if physicians published their case records, the material would be unsatisfactory. In

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spite of much progress made during the last decades, there is still a large part of the population, which either out of ignorance and superstition or on account of poverty, fails to seek medical assistance even in case of serious illness, especially in rural districts. The latest extension of the compulsory sick insurance to agricultural laborers and home workers will bring about a much needed change. There is little information about the relation between morbidity and mortality in the different classes of society, still less about the general state of health, except in countries with large standing armies.

While wealth has its specific dangers as well as poverty, rich people as a rule live longer than the poor, who are often unable to have good medical and hospital care. The principal discussion is concerned with diseases which are chiefly bred of poverty and of occupations in different dangerous trades.

Experts disagree on the question as to how far the density of population in overheated and ill ventilated quarters is responsible for the most deplorable infant mortality in Germany. Some experts contend that both breast nursed and bottle fed babies are affected equally by overcrowding, while others believe that almost exclusively, children who are improperly fed, are stricken.

Dr. Koelsch not only points out what Germany has accomplished in protecting and safeguarding machinery, but also how much remains to be done. The reader will remember Miss Josephine Goldmark's standard work on "Fatigue and Efficiency," in which she deals with the correlation between long hours of work in badly lighted and ill ventilated, dusty workrooms, sometimes in unnatural positions, and at machines too heavy for minors and children, and the state of health of the workers. It is evident that unhealthy conditions of work so further the spread of infectious diseases that they sometimes assume an epidemic form.

Some occupations, reputed as especially healthy, call for a strong, vigorous and healthy set of men, whose excellent physical constitution protects and safeguards them against some of the dangers inherent in the trade. By proper training and education of the workers it is possible to reduce the morbidity and mortality in quite a number of cases. Seeking medical aid immediately, is often a means of successfully preventing a long sickness or even a more serious result. The statistics of the sick fund of Leipzig show that many working women, when pregnant, prefer to become voluntary members. In this case they must pay the whole dues, while otherwise the employer contributes one third. Voluntary members can stop working and rest whenever they feel like it. As a result, they show only 0.3 per cent of premature births and 2.3 per cent of miscarriages, against 1.7 and 15.5 per cent of the others, who stop working only two weeks before confinement.

The following rules ought to be observed in order to reduce to a minimum the dangers of certain occupations:

A minor should select an occupation for which he is best fitted both physically and mentally.

The workers should use all protective appliances with which the shop is provided, and the employer should realize that proper sanitary

and hygienic conditions in the workrooms are a paying investment instead of a financial burden on production.

Factory inspectors, assisted by physicians, should see that the laws are observed, and the courts should punish with imprisonment employers who willfully disregard the regulations.

Social legislation should keep up with social science.

Most industrial countries of Europe are now facing the serious problem of how to regenerate the population. This question came prominently before the English nation at the time of the Boer war, but other nations are suffering from the same phenomenon. In Germany from 1904 to 1908 only 53.3 per cent of the men were found fit for service. Weak constitution was the reason for rejecting 19.3 per cent of the people who were examined. Unfavorable economic conditions prevent many from getting the proper quality and quantity of food. Quite a number of men are rejected because their health has been impaired by their occupation. I remember from my own experience the difficulty encountered when the recruits came in. Many had forgotten the proper use of their limbs, which had become crooked and straightening them out was difficult. The best way of checking degeneration seems to be a shortening of the working days, a minimum wage for underpaid occupations, and above all, compulsory physical exercises in the continuation schools and the possibility of continuing all kinds of sport afterwards.

Prominent writers in the United States complain about the rapid increase of mental diseases, caused by the tremendous speed of life and work, and the difficulty, especially of the foreign born to adapt themselves to it. The same is true for Germany. Suicides and criminals seem to increase everywhere. Some people seemed to be inclined to attribute the former phenomenon to a relaxation in religious belief, the latter to greater educational facilities. Though better education has not checked crime, it has at least noticeably reduced its most atrocious forms. The greater economic differentiation and the fierce competition in the cities give greater opportunity of committing crimes than the rural districts. It is not possible to prove the connection between race, religious belief and crime directly, but it might be said that creeds which try to keep their followers in ignorance, contribute to their remaining at a lower level of society, prevent them from progressing economically and thus indirectly may cause their delinquency.

Few diseases are as intimately connected with economic and social conditions and relations of mankind as the venereal diseases. In some provinces of Russia, the Balkan states and Asia Minor, where housing and living conditions are extremely unsanitary and low, syphilis has become more of an endemic disease. Only Denmark and Norway have introduced the obligatory notification of these diseases, hence their statistics furnish reliable material for study. As the infection does not at the beginning oblige men to stop working, it does a lot of damage in the body before it is attended; many still prefer the services of quacks instead of a reliable specialist. The chance for infection is greater in cities than in rural districts, though their morals are about the same. The working classes enjoy in most European countries much sexual freedom, which

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finds a different expression in the cities and in the rural districts. In the latter a man keeps company with one girl, and often marries her when she expects a child; in the former relations are more temporary and changing. Moreover, the publicly licensed or the clandestine prostitute, the chief source of infection, inhabits urban centers.

Interesting are statistics of Denmark and Prussia, which show the number of infected per 10,000 population.

Denmark	Prussia
Copenhagen202	Berlin187
Small cities 30	Prussia62 to 75
Rural districts 3.8	Prussia.....9.6

In Denmark the ratio of infected women to men is 1 to 4; in Frankfurt one to three. This means that one woman generally infects three or four men, or that one out of three or four men infects another woman. Blaschko believes that the number of infections is proportional to the marriage age.

The statistics of different sick funds in Berlin reveal the spread of these diseases. The actual number given therein is probably still below the number of infected:

Clandestine prostitutes	30 per cent
Students	25 per cent
Clerks	16 per cent
Working people	9 per cent
Army	4 per cent

The German army makes the best showing of all standing armies. The German soldier is not more moral, but he is told how to protect himself against infection. His pay is so small that he cannot think of going to a prostitute. He enters into relations with a girl of his class, and frequently marries her after his two years are over.

The most valuable part of the handbook is part four, in which the duties of the state and the municipality in preventing and fighting disease breeding economic conditions, are discussed.

The German Empire has a federal sanitary board with the following departments:

- Public health, including housing, heating, schools, baths, burial.
- Foodstuff.
- Pure water and sewage disposal.
- Factory hygiene.
- Epidemic diseases.
- Medical service in hospitals.
- Medicaments and poisons.
- Veterinary service.

While the most important matter is regulated by federal law, the individual states regulate minor matters, always in such a way that the regulations are uniform.

Whenever the legislature of the Empire is asked to take up a question, ample statistical data are furnished by the imperial statistical bureau, which constantly investigates social and economic conditions. As

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bad housing is responsible for many cases of illness and death, the Empire, the states, the municipalities and private organizations, either provide better houses for groups of people, or make it possible for their organizations to borrow money at low rates for building purposes. Compulsory housing inspection has not been introduced into the Empire, individual states and cities have it though, and the Prussian speech from the throne promised its introduction into Germany. The political influence of the house-owners is great in the city parliaments. As a class they are opposed to legislation which diminishes their profits and interferes with the control of their property. The modern regulations of the building police have, however, considerably curtailed the absolute dominion of the house-owners. In a similar way, imperial legislation has obliged the manufacturers to provide dangerous machinery with safeguards, even though it interferes with the process of production. Legislation for limiting working hours, except for women and minors, has been less extended. Through the imperial legislation of insurance the laborer is sure of sufficient assistance whenever sickness or an accident prevents him from providing the necessities for his family. The more enlightened municipalities have recently even imported meat and other foodstuff from abroad for the masses of the population. In order to bring demand for and offer of labor together, employment agencies with a non-partisan board have been established throughout the Empire. The burning question of what to do with unemployed has been partly solved by municipal insurance in different forms, and by providing work, especially for the unskilled laborers. Money is appropriated for the execution of work, but it is undertaken only when winter reduces the number of regularly employed laborers. Different governmental undertakings follow the same policy.

The handbook contains an astonishing amount of exceedingly useful information for physicians, statesmen, social workers and the general public. It would be an immense gain if an investigation of the same conditions and their results could be made in the United States, a social survey of the whole country, instead of the many which depict and describe local conditions. Professor Tugendreich and Dr. Mosse's book will undoubtedly stimulate all who work for improving the conditions of the masses who live and work under highly unfavorable circumstances.

Chicago.

VICTOR V. BOROSINI.